

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-8 are currently pending, with claim 1 being independent. By the Amendment above, claims 1-8 have been canceled and replaced with re-written claims 9-16, claim 9 being independent. It is believed that claims 9-16 are substantially commensurate with claims 1-8, respectively, and that all amendments made thereto are cosmetic in nature. Claims 9-16 are simply presented in more conventional U.S. form, with changes in grammar, syntax and idiom, but not in scope. No new matter has been added by way of this amendment.

In the pending Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings for several reasons:

1. The Examiner objected to the drawings as allegedly failing to show clearly the diametrical notches 11, 12 as described in the specification. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. The Examiner has conceded that notches 11, 12 are shown in the drawing, and labeled. The drawing shows the feature, and clearly labels it. No correction is necessary, and withdrawal of this objection is solicited.

2. The Examiner objected to the drawing because reference numeral 10a was mentioned in the specification and not found in the drawing, while reference numeral 12a was used in the drawing but not mentioned in the specification. By the above amendment, reference numeral 12a was corrected to 10a, correcting the typographical error noted by the Examiner. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is solicited.

3. The Examiner also objected to the drawing as allegedly failing to include reference numeral "m" which is mentioned in the specification. Applicant respectfully traverses this objection, because reference numeral "m" is in fact found in the drawings, in both Figs. 1 and 2. the existing reference numerals are highlighted in blue in the attached copy of the

drawing, for the Examiner's convenience. Withdrawal of this objection is therefore respectfully solicited.

4. The Examiner went on to object to the drawing as reference character "e" was allegedly depicted as a dimension rather than as a reference numeral. By the amendment above, applicant has amended the drawing to remove the dimensional arrows, and replacing them with a leader line. Withdrawal of this objection is therefore solicited.

5. Finally, the Examiner objected to the drawings as allegedly failing to show the angular length of the lateral notches 11, 12 and the width of ring 4. Suitable dimensional lines and lettering have been added to the drawing, and the specification has been amended to add the reference characters thereto. No new matter has been added by this amendment, and withdrawal of this objection is also solicited.

The Examiner next objected to the Abstract for various reasons. By the Amendment above, a new Abstract has been submitted, and so withdrawal of this objection is solicited.

The Examiner also objected to claims 1, 4 and 8 for various reasons. By the amendment above, claims 1-8 have been re-written as claims 9-16, and all informalities noted by the Examiner have been corrected. Withdrawal of this objection is therefore requested.

The Examiner also rejected claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 (2d para.), as allegedly being indefinite for various reasons. By the amendment above, re-written claims 9-16 have addressed all of the alleged informalities noted by the Examiner, and withdrawal of this rejection is therefore requested.

The Examiner then rejected claims 1-4 and 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,372,373 to Reel, and claim 5 under 35 U.S.C.

§ 103(a) over Reel in view of United States Patent No. 3,941,495 to Duncan. For the following reasons, applicant respectfully submits that the invention as claimed is neither taught nor suggested by the cited references, taken alone or in combination.

The claimed invention is a joint for supporting a ball-bearing control cable passing through a guiding tube in a wall. The cable includes an element which is longitudinally movable in the guiding tube. The joint has a nut positioned on one side of the wall, which includes a threaded sleeve extending therefrom to the opposite side of the wall, where it is secured by a lock-nut. The joint further includes a ring, shaped as a portion of a ball, disposed in a spherical axial chamber in the nut. The ring is capable of rotating freely in the axial cavity. The threaded sleeve has two sections, which are mated together within the ring to form a single straight tube, through which the movable element may move. This is a completely different environment than that in which the device disclosed in Reel operates, and therefore has a completely different set of concerns and constraints.

Reel discloses an axle pivot assembly for use in a motor vehicle. The vehicle's wheels are mounted on two independently pivotable front axles 14, and the disclosed axle pivot assembly is intended to *prevent* longitudinal movement of the axles therein ("no deformation of the components can occur which would permit floating of the fixed point P." -- col. 4, lines 44-45; "The axle pivot assembly of the present invention holds the pivot point of the axle at a fixed location on the vehicle chassis thereby eliminating axle float . . ." -- col. 1, lines 56-59). This assembly, therefore, could not anticipate the invention of new claim 9 which specifically recites that the cable being supported "include[es] an element which is longitudinally movable within said guiding tube".

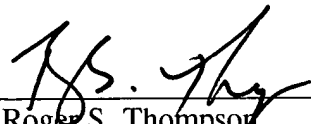
It would also not be obvious to modify a device the intended purpose of which is to *prevent* longitudinal movement of the components which are located therein to one in which movement is not only permitted, *but required*. The teachings of Reel, therefore, are directly antithetical to the intended usage of the claimed invention, and no amount of modification could change this essential feature of Reel. Thus, Reel neither teaches nor suggests the invention as claimed.

The addition of the Duncan patent overcomes none of the deficiencies of the Reel patent. Duncan is cited merely to show the use of notches in a support for a bearing, but fails to teach or suggest a joint for supporting a longitudinally movable element.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the invention as claimed is patentably distinct from the cited references either alone or in combination. Withdrawal of the rejections is therefore respectfully solicited.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application; however, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,
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